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WALKER

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

RECORD OF DECISION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CARSON CITY DISTRICT
CARSON CITY, NEVADA

1986

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WALKER
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

RECORD OF DECISION

JUNE 1986

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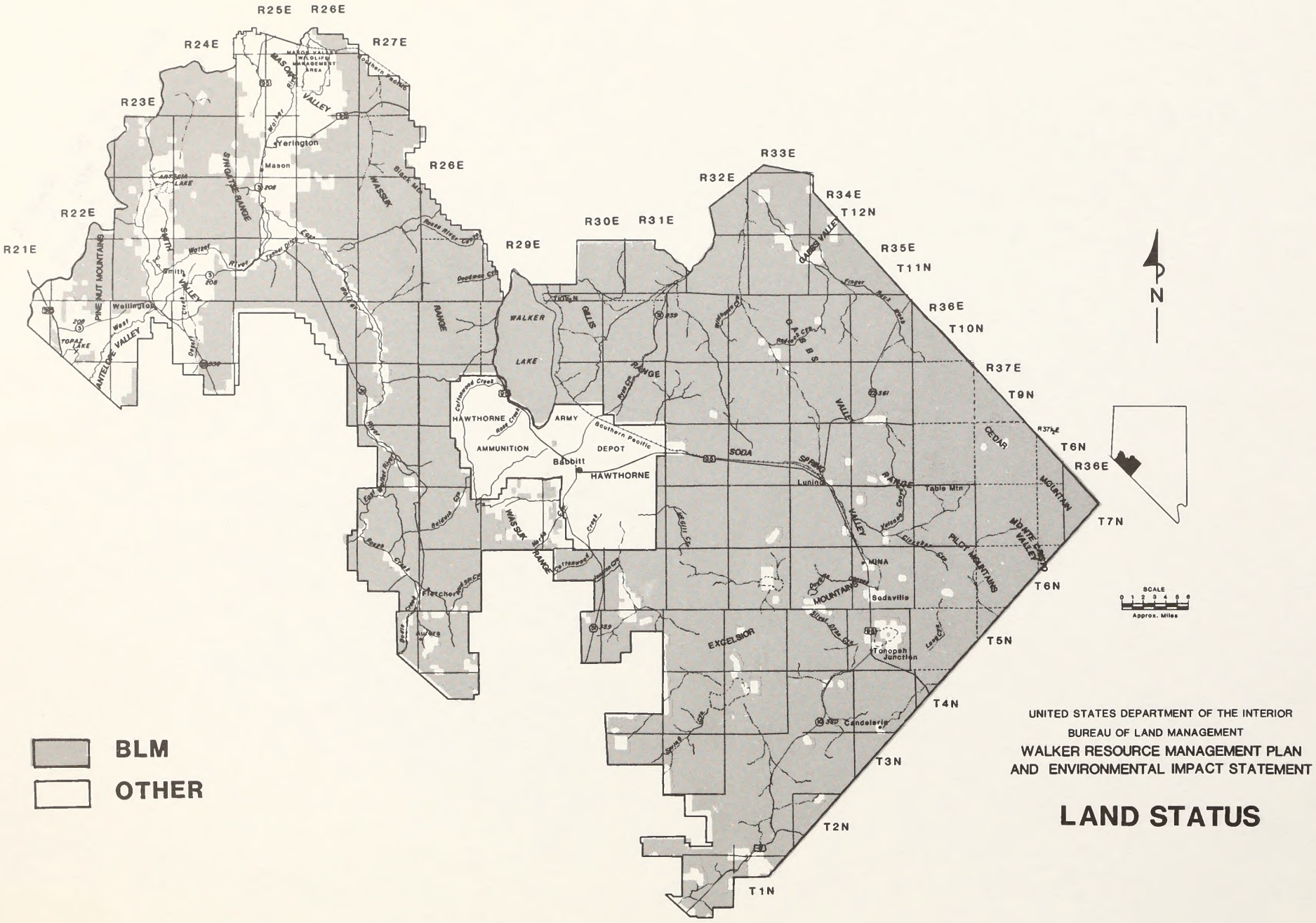

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OTHER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WALKER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LAND STATUS

6/6/86

Record of Decision
Walker Resource Management Plan
Walker Resource Area
Carson City District, Nevada

Introduction

The Walker Resource Area consists of approximately 2.2 million acres in eastern California and western Nevada. This Record of Decision applies to the entire Resource Area. Decisions for approximately 300,000 acres in the Pine Nut-Markleeville Planning Units were issued in 1982 in the Reno Management Framework Plan. Those decisions are incorporated by reference. Decisions for the remaining 1.9 million acres in the Walker and Mina Planning units are outlined on the following pages. Those decisions are the result of a planning process initiated in March, 1983, which culminated in the issuing of the Proposed Walker Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement in July, 1985.

The decisions outlined here reflect several minor adjustments to those in the Proposed RMP: A review of the proposed expansion of the East Walker River Scenic Area has resulted in deleting an 80 acre parcel. This and a more accurate acreage tabulation have resulted in a total expansion area of 286 acres. In addition, the Scenic Area boundaries five miles downstream from the expansion area have been adjusted to correct an error in the original legal description. Also, the oil and gas and geothermal leasing exclusions for the Scenic Area will be adjusted to conform to the mineral segregation.

Due to a change in permittees, the old Lincoln Flat allotment will be reestablished by splitting it off from the Spring Gulch allotment. Several lands actions have made livestock grazing impractical in the Colony Settlement allotment. Therefore it will be eliminated and the remaining public land will be incorporated into the Hudson Hills allotment. Several adjustments in the corridor network have been made as a result of additional analysis and public input during the environmental analysis process for a major powerline through the area: The corridors over Montgomery Pass and Powell Canyon (identified as E-K,M-N, and K-O in the Final RMP/EIS) will not be designated at this time. A new corridor (E-M) which generally follows portions of the old E-K and M-N routes has been added. It connects with a corridor proposed in the Toiyabe National Forest RMP. A joint corridor study with the Bakersfield District will be prepared to analyze Montgomery Pass alternatives. Subsequent corridor designations, if any, will be consistent with the land use prescriptions in this Record of Decision.

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ISSUE: Rangeland Management. This issue is concerned with the use of rangeland resources by livestock, wild horses and burros and wildlife.

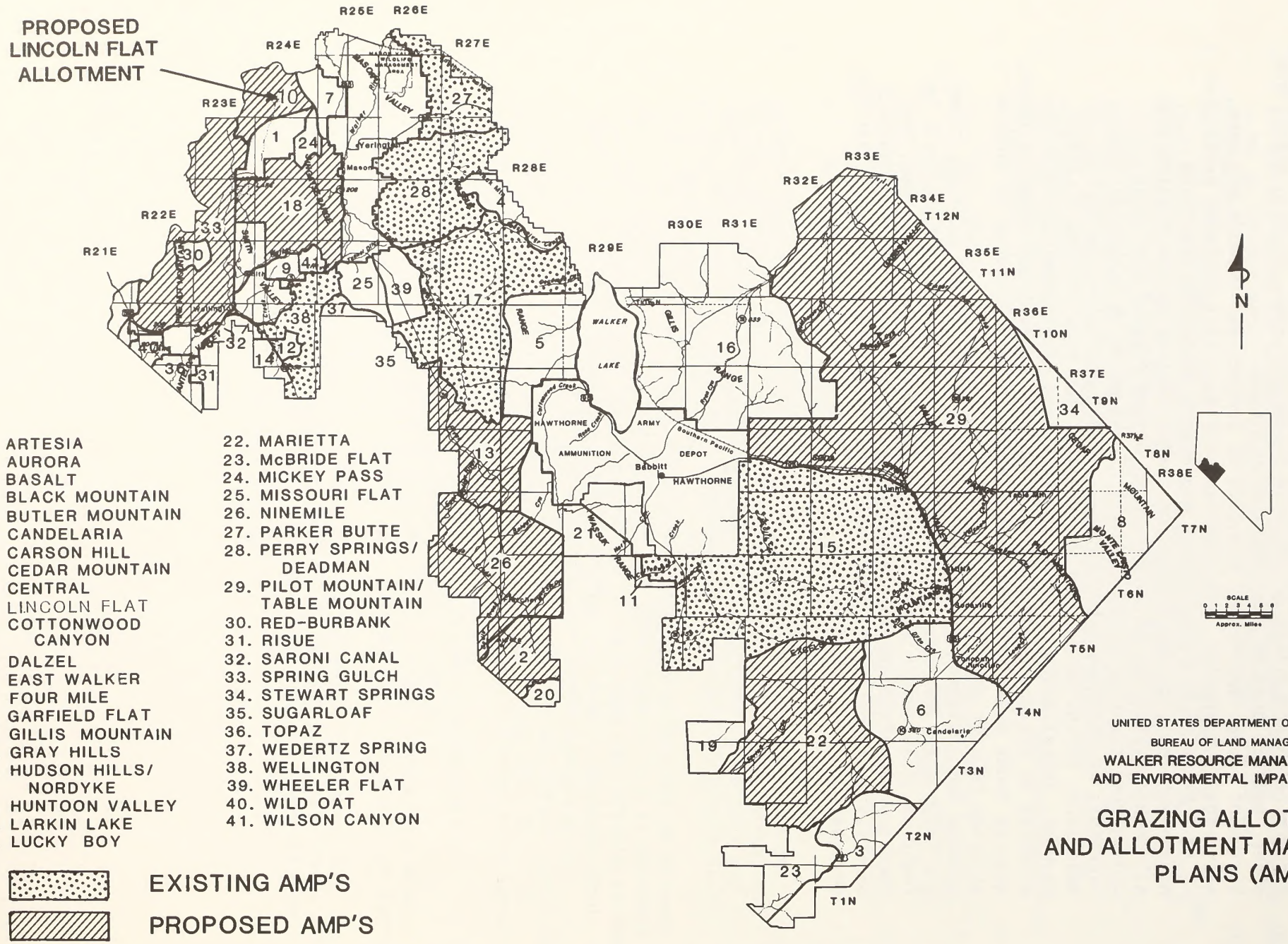
Decisions

1. Initially, authorize livestock use at the three year average licenced use level of 36,962 AUMs. There will be no initial change in active preference.
2. Develop and implement AMPs on seven Category I allotments, and continue implementation of existing AMPs on one Category I and four Category M allotments to improve and/or maintain condition; provide for proper utilization within key areas; achieve better livestock distribution to obtain more uniform utilization; and provide an increase in available forage and water for livestock, wild horses, and wildlife (Grazing Allotment Map).
3. Install the following range improvements to assist in meeting management objectives. These range improvements will consist of:

    a. The development of water facilities and systems which will include drilling two wells, laying 11 miles of water pipeline, installing one water storage tank and 14 water troughs, and developing eight spring sources and one reservoir.
    b. Construction of 32 miles of fence and installation of five cattle guards.
    c. Brush control on 500 acres.

4. Reestablish the Lincoln Flat allotment by splitting it off from the Spring Gulch allotment. Change livestock use from sheep to cattle and establish a grazing period of use from 12/31 to 1/31. Eliminate the Colony Settlement allotment and incorporate the remaining public land into the Hudson Hills allotment.
5. Initially manage wild horses and burros in current herd areas at present estimated population levels, except in the following areas: 1) Southern Pine Nut Herd Area, the entire population of this area was identified for removal in the Reno Management Framework Plan; 2) Powell Mountain Herd Area, this area has an existing management plan which specifies the population level; and 3) Garfield Flat Herd Area, the population level in this area will initially be managed as specified in the 1984 Garfield Flat Wild Horse Interim Removal Plan. The implementation of these plans would yield a level of 953 horses and 129 burros.
6. An area of about 68,000 acres near Marietta is being proposed for designation as the Marietta National Wild Burro Range.
7. Develop and implement four Herd Management Area Plans (HMAPs) for wild horses and burros (HMAP Map). This will include the development of seven water sources.
8. Manage wildlife habitat for a long term goal of providing forage for reasonable numbers of big game including: 18,087 AUMs for mule deer, 268 AUMs for antelope, and 96 AUMs for bighorn sheep; while recognizing an initial forage demand of 12,790 AUMs for mule deer, 247 AUMs for antelope, and 53 AUMs for bighorn sheep.

9. Continue implementation of the Alkali Lake, East Walker River, Excelsior Mountains and Pilot Mountain Management Plans for wildlife (Wildlife/Watershed Management Map).
10. Support re-introductions of Lahontan cutthroat trout, bighorn sheep, and other endemic species into suitable habitats.
11. Implement range improvement projects to protect and improve big game, sage grouse, fisheries, and riparian habitat. This includes protection of 10.7 miles of fishable rivers and creeks (Wildlife/Watershed Management Map); rehabilitation of meadow habitat in the McBride Flat allotment; protection of 20 developed spring sources and seven undeveloped riparian areas; removal of 600 acres of pinyon-juniper overstory on selected sites in the Pine Nut Mountains, Excelsior Mountains, Wassuk Range, and the McBride Flat area through fuelwood harvest; installation of three guzzlers; and development of water for wildlife at six spring developments and five undeveloped riparian areas.
12. Acquire lands along the East Walker River through exchange to enhance wildlife habitat management.
13. Develop and implement Watershed Management Plans (WMPs) on Corey Creek and Rough Creek watersheds. Twenty erosion control structures will be required to implement these plans (Wildlife/Watershed Management Map).
14. Continue rangeland and watershed monitoring to determine if management objectives are being met and what future adjustments in grazing use are necessary.



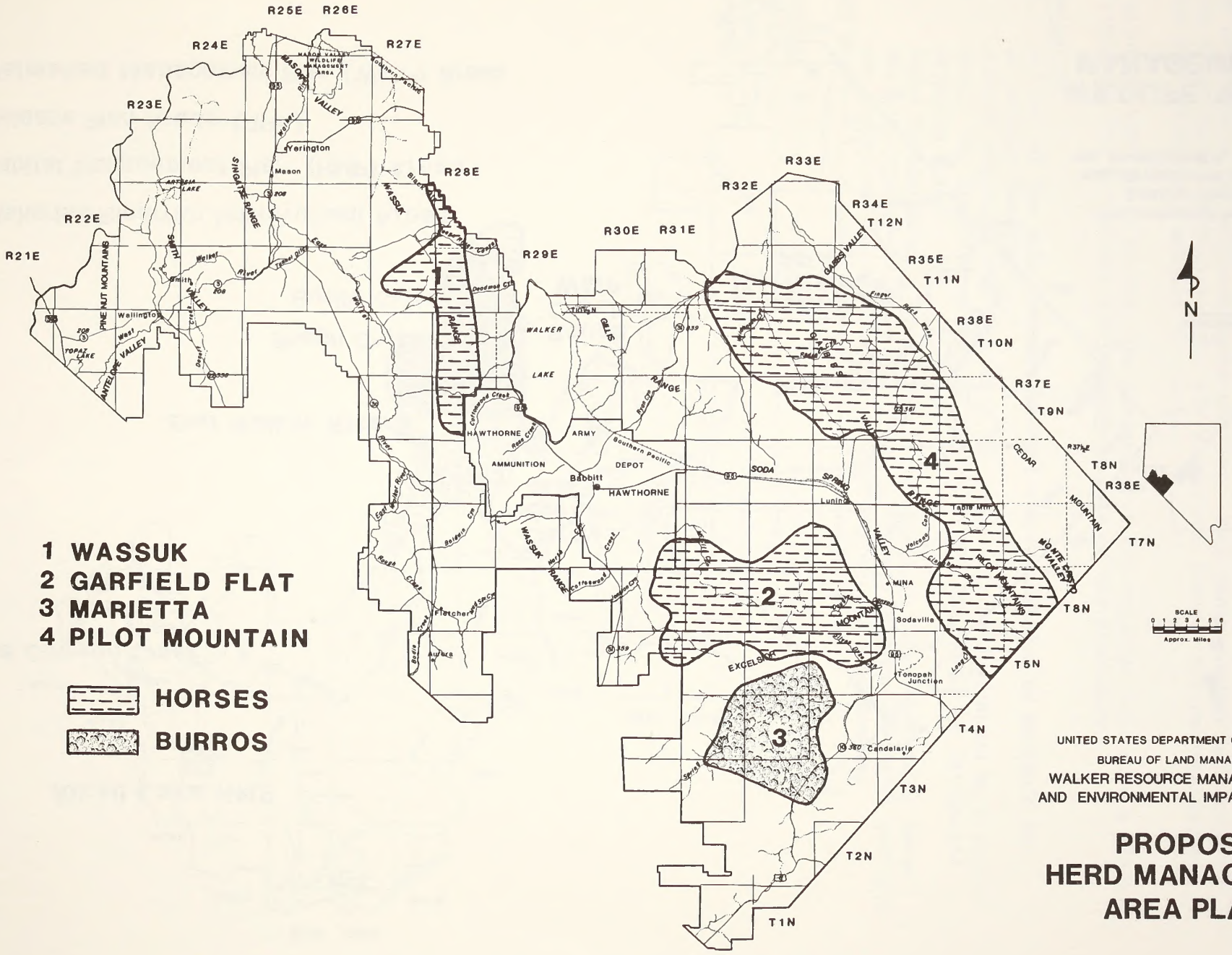
1. ARTESIA
2. AURORA
3. BASALT
4. BLACK MOUNTAIN
5. BUTLER MOUNTAIN
6. CANDELARIA
7. CARSON HILL
8. CEDAR MOUNTAIN
9. CENTRAL
10. LINCOLN FLAT
11. COTTONWOOD CANYON
12. DALZEL
13. EAST WALKER
14. FOUR MILE
15. GARFIELD FLAT
16. GILLIS MOUNTAIN
17. GRAY HILLS
18. HUDSON HILLS/ NORDYKE
19. HUNTOON VALLEY
20. LARKIN LAKE
21. LUCKY BOY
22. MARIETTA
23. McBRIDE FLAT
24. MICKEY PASS
25. MISSOURI FLAT
26. NINEMILE
27. PARKER BUTTE
28. PERRY SPRINGS/ DEADMAN
29. PILOT MOUNTAIN/ TABLE MOUNTAIN
30. RED-BURBANK
31. RISUE
32. SARONI CANAL
33. SPRING GULCH
34. STEWART SPRINGS
35. SUGARLOAF
36. TOPAZ
37. WEDERTZ SPRING
38. WELLINGTON
39. WHEELER FLAT
40. WILD OAT
41. WILSON CANYON

EXISTING AMP'S

PROPOSED AMP'S

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WALKER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

GRAZING ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS (AMP'S)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T5N
T4N
T3N
T2N
T1N
N
1 WASSUK
2 GARFIELD FLAT
3 MARIETTA
4 PILOT MOUNTAIN
HORSES
BURROS
SCALE
Approx. Miles
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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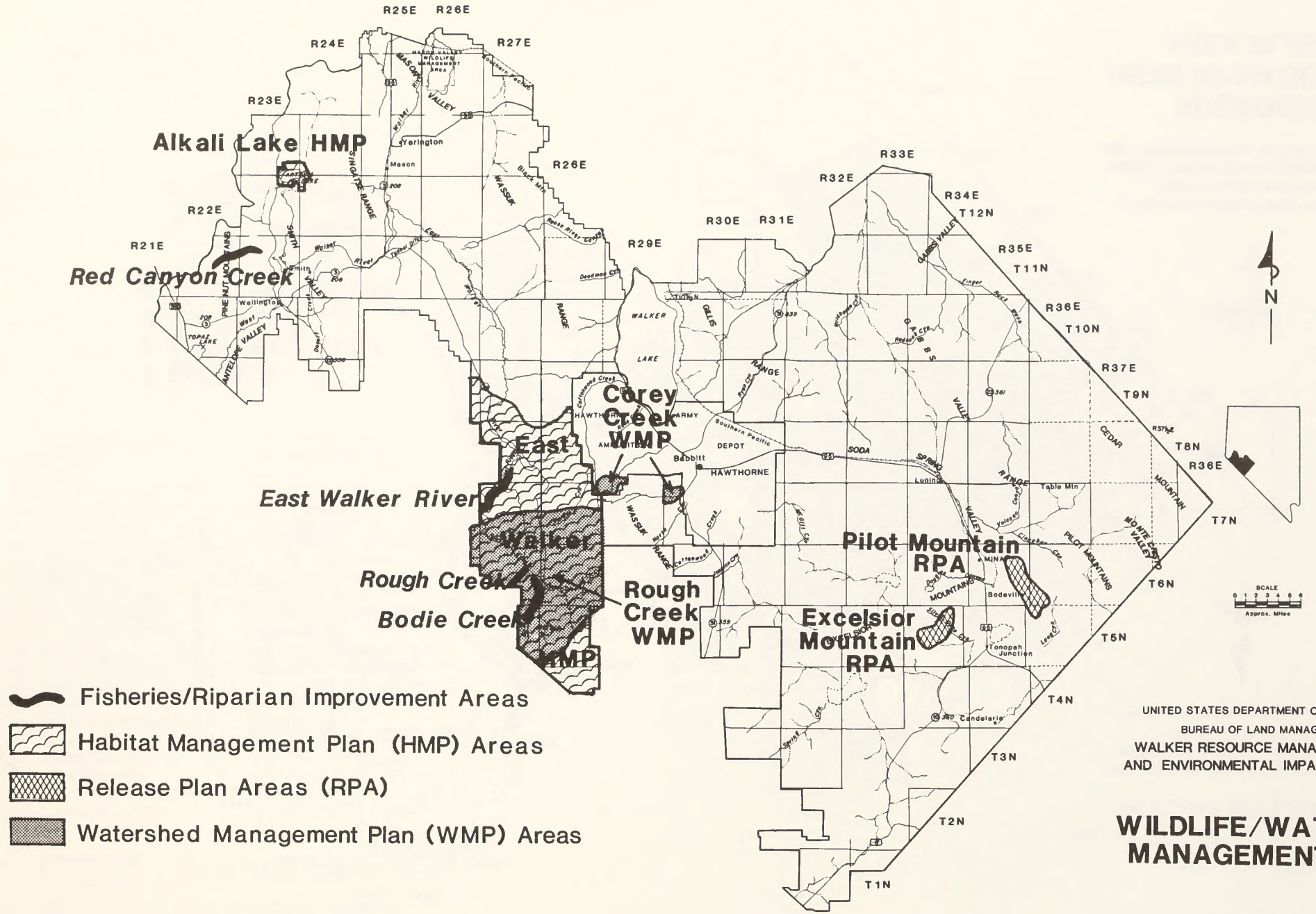
WALKER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
PROPOSED
HERD MANAGEMENT
AREA PLANS


Alkali Lake HMP
Red Canyon Creek
Corey Creek WMP
East
East Walker River
Walker
Rough Creek
Bodie Creek
HMP
Rough Creek WMP
Pilot Mountain RPA
Excelsior Mountain RPA
Fisheries/Riparian Improvement Areas
Habitat Management Plan (HMP) Areas
Release Plan Areas (RPA)
Watershed Management Plan (WMP) Areas
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WALKER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
WILDLIFE/WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AREAS

ISSUE: WILDERNESS

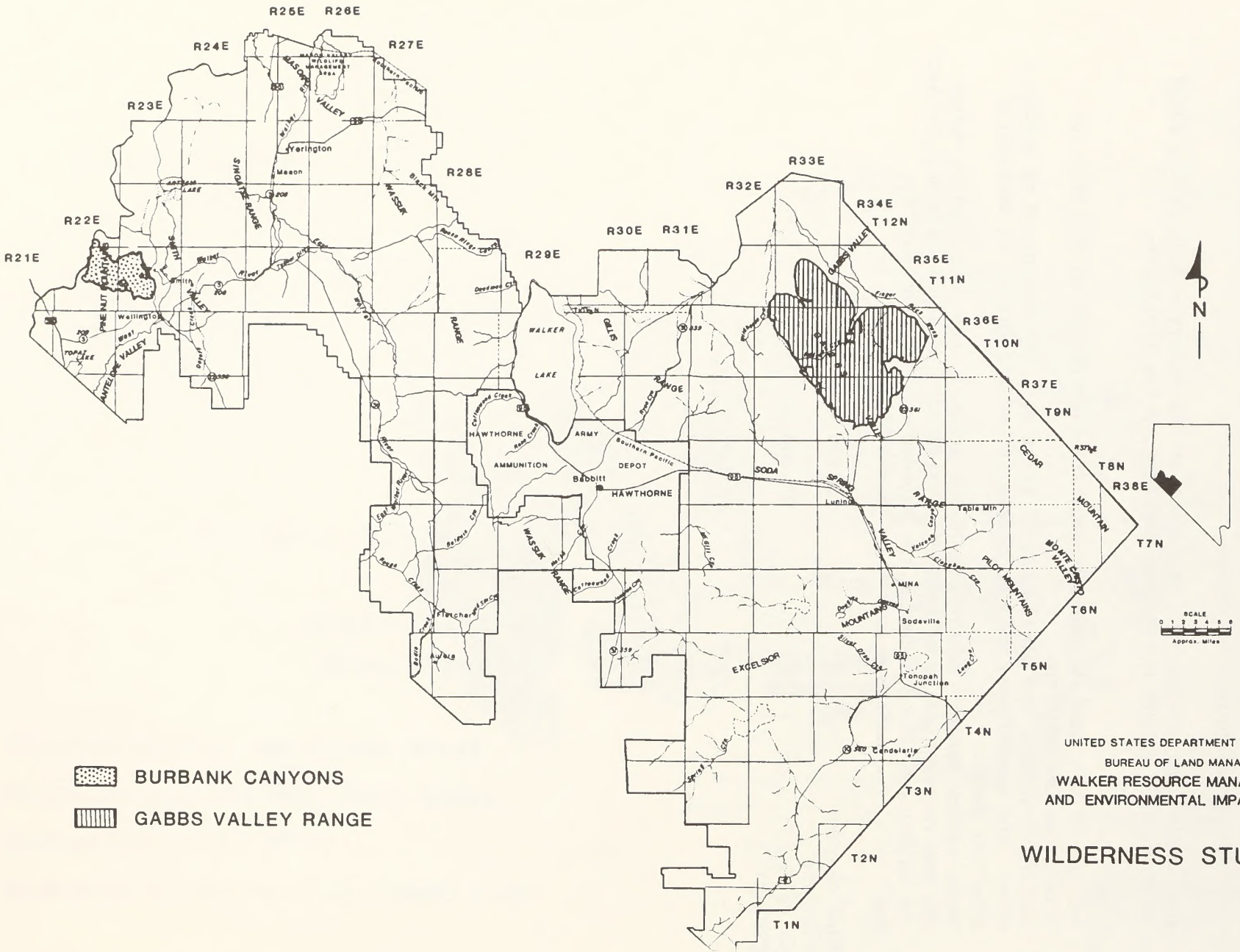
This issue is concerned with the amount of acreage to be recommended suitable or nonsuitable for wilderness designation. This document does not serve as the final Record of Decision for the Wilderness issue. All recommendations are preliminary and subject to change.

Following additional review, the Secretary of the Interior will file a Final Wilderness EIS and submit his Recommendations to the President.

Decisions

1. Neither of the WSAs (Wilderness Map) are recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.
2. Burbank Canyons: The entire 13,395 acres will be designated as a Scenic Area. The Scenic Area will be closed to ORV use except on designated existing roads.
3. Gabbs Valley Range: Manage the 79,600 acres in the Gabbs Valley Range WSA not recommended as suitable for wilderness designation under multiple use guidelines as outlined in the Management Decisions Summary.

WSA Name	Suitable Acres	Nonsuitable Acres
Burbank Canyons NV-030-525a	0	13,395 acres
Gabbs Valley NV-030-407	0	79,600 acres
	0 (0%)	92,995 acres (100%)



BURBANK CANYONS

GABBS VALLEY RANGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WALKER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

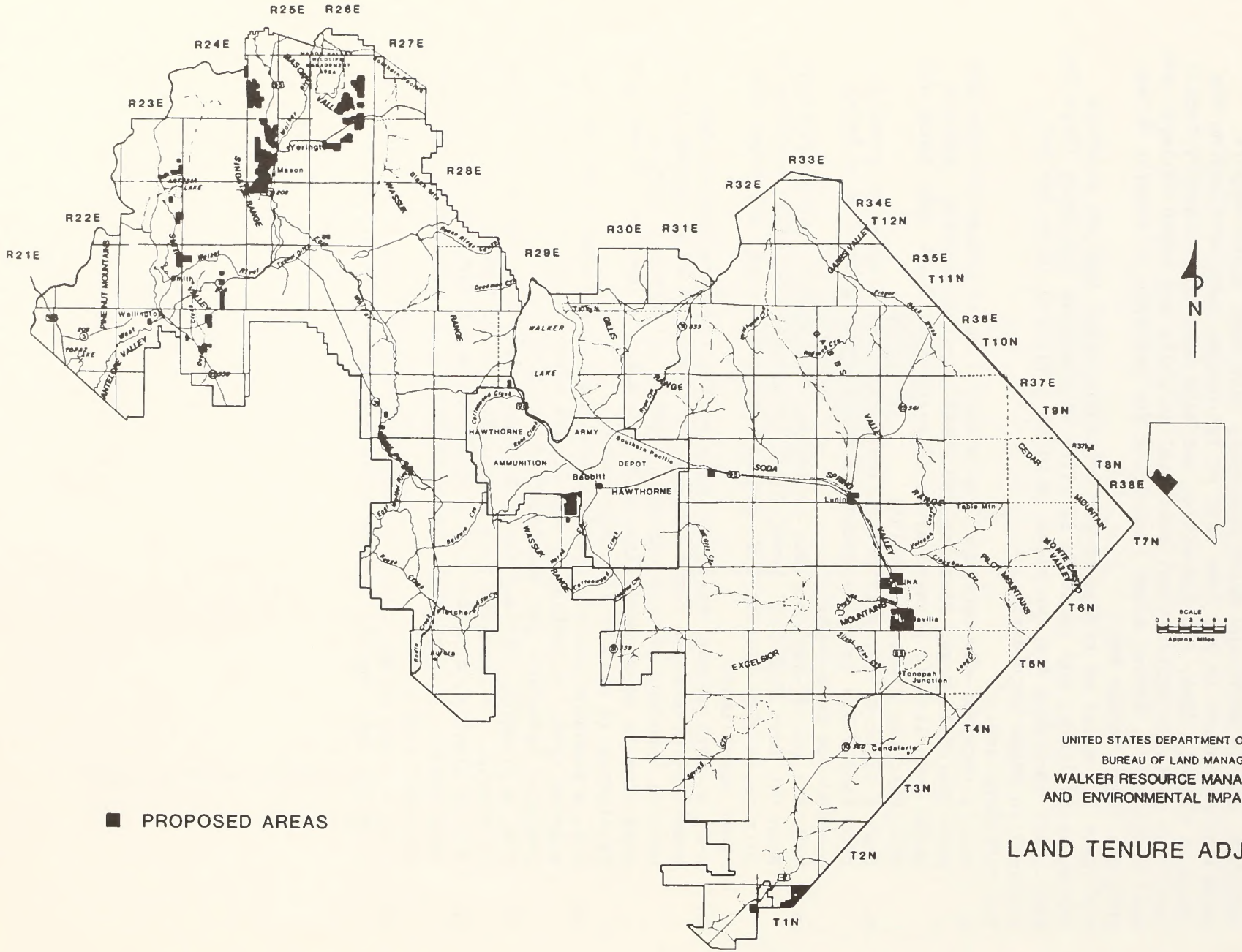
ISSUE: LAND TENURE AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY CORRIDORS

Decisions

1. Designate for potential future disposal approximately 26,000 acres as a pool of lands which meet preliminary criteria for transfer from federal ownership. These lands are difficult and uneconomic to manage because of location and other characteristics (e.g.; scattered parcels south of Hawthorne and in Smith and Mason Valleys); land that would support community expansion (e.g.; land west of Yerington, land surrounding the towns of Luning, Mina, and Sodaville, and land east of Montgomery Pass); land with possible agricultural potential in Smith and Mason Valleys; and land along the E. Walker River identified for exchange to benefit Bureau programs (Land Tenure Map).
2. Designate 217 miles of rights-of-way corridors which include existing transmission lines, and identify 84 miles of planning corridors (Corridor Map). All corridors are two miles in width. Private lands are not included in these corridors.

   The corridors are:

   a. A-C, a right-of-way corridor, containing a major powerline from the Fort Churchill Power Plant to the South Lake Tahoe area. Another major powerline is planned along this route to South Lake Tahoe and west over the Sierra Mountains.
   b. D-H, a right-of-way corridor following the existing major powerline from Bonneville to Los Angeles. Another major powerline is being planned for this route.
   c. C-F, a right-of-way corridor following the existing major powerline from the Fort Churchill Power Plant to southern Nevada. Portions of this route also contain U.S. Highway 95, a railroad, telephone and other powerlines.
   d. E-G, a right-of-way corridor following the existing Western Area Power Administration right-of-way. The existing right-of-way is the eastern boundary of this corridor. While it does not contain a powerline, a major powerline from Bonneville to southern Nevada and California is planned for this route.
   e. I-J, a planning corridor for a powerline between Austin and the Los Angeles area. A portion of this route borders U.S. Highway 6 and contains telephone and secondary powerlines.
   f. E-M, a planning corridor for a proposed powerline from Dixie Valley to Bishop. It connects to a Forest Service corridor.
   g. D-L, a planning corridor for a potential major gas pipeline to the west coast. A portion of the route follows an existing powerline corridor route.
   h. C-B, a right-of-way corridor following the existing major powerline from the Fort Churchill Power Plant to Carson City and Reno.



■ PROPOSED AREAS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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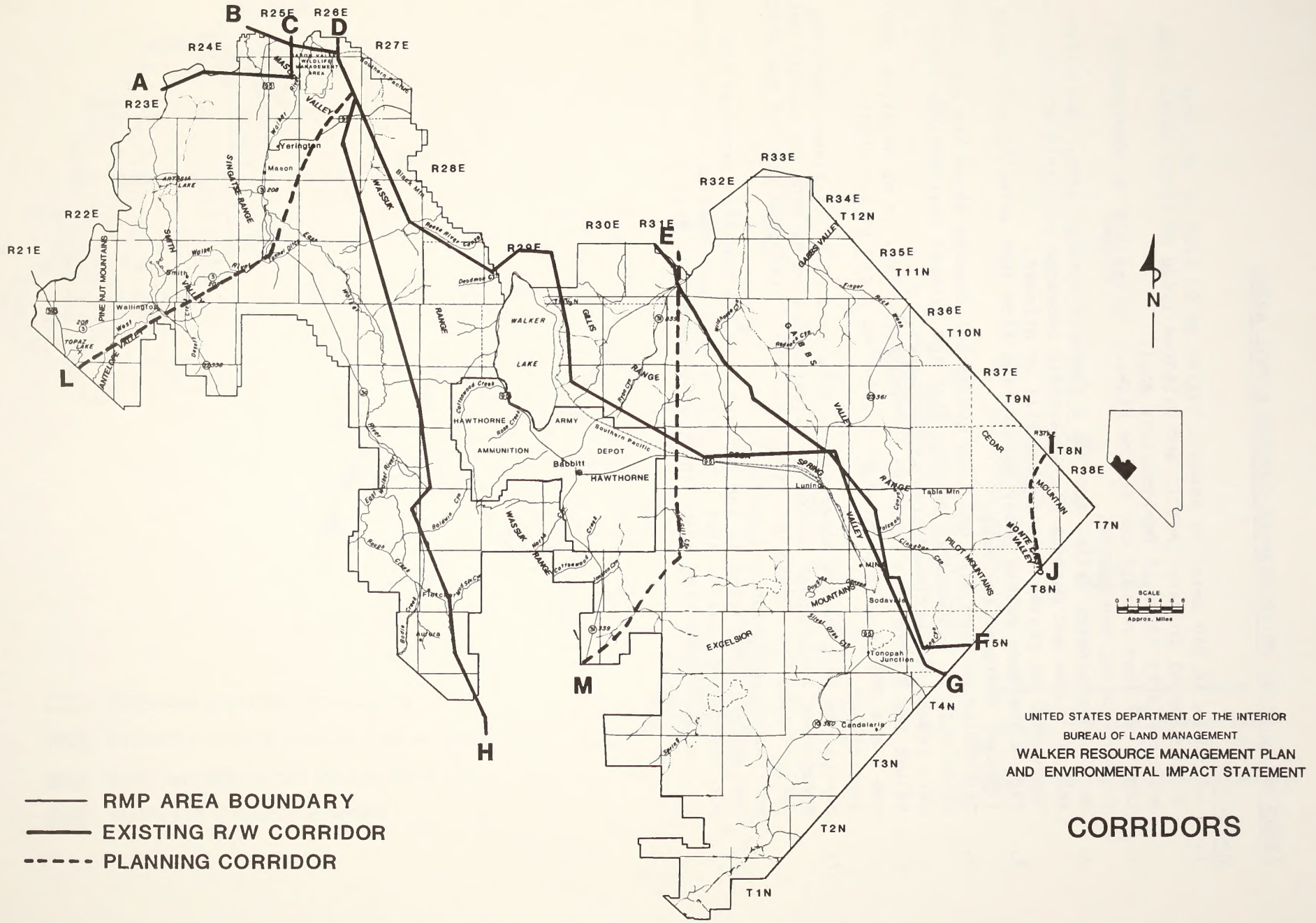
LAND TENURE ADJUSTMENTS



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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WALKER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
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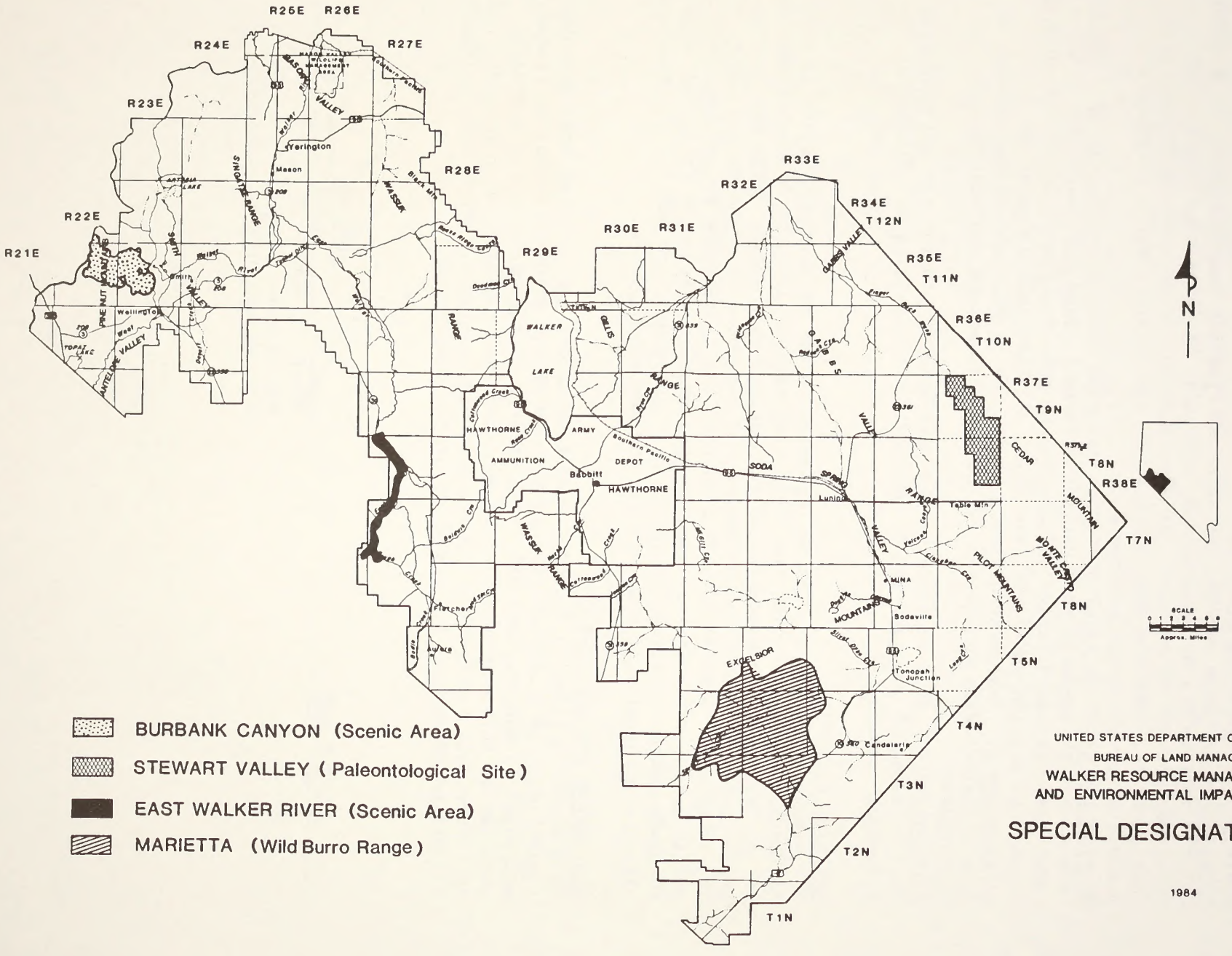
CORRIDORS

——— RMP AREA BOUNDARY
——— EXISTING R/W CORRIDOR
- - - - - PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN/SCENIC AREAS

Decisions

1. Designate 16,000 acres in Stewart Valley as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and withdraw 1,420 of those acres from mineral entry (Special Designations Map).
2. Limit off-road vehicle use in the Stewart Valley ACEC to designated roads, trails, and washes.
3. Manage the Stewart Valley ACEC as a Research Natural Area. Establish special rules and permits for scientific research and field schools. No commercial or private collection will be allowed.
4. Expand the East Walker River Scenic Area from 3889 acres to 4173 acres (Special Designations Map).
5. The exclusion from oil, gas, and geothermal leasing along the East Walker River will be adjusted to conform with the mineral segregation. This will reduce the excluded area by 334 acres.
6. Adjust the Scenic Area boundary in T8N, R27E, Sec. 34 by deleting lots 6 and 7 and adding lots 8 and 9 to correct an error in the legal description.
7. Manage the East Walker River Scenic Area as a Class II Visual Resource Management Zone, where management actions can be evident but should not detract from the scenic quality of the area. Off-road vehicle use will be limited to designated roads.
8. Designate 13,395 acres in the eastern Pine Nut Mountain Range as the Burbank Canyons Scenic Area. This area will be closed to ORV use except on designated existing roads (Special Designations Map).



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SPECIAL DESIGNATION AREAS

1984

ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED

Five alternative Resource Management Plans were analyzed during the Walker planning process. These alternatives were:

Alternative A: This alternative represented a continuation of present resource management and use levels. Actions would be taken on a case-by-case basis as circumstances dictate.

Alternative B: This was the preferred alternative/Proposed RMP. It provides for the optimum mix of natural and commercial resource uses based on the relative value of those uses. It was selected as the Proposed RMP since it best meets the public's demand for goods and services while minimizing disruption of the human environment.

Alternative C: This alternative was oriented towards production of commercial resources with emphasis on livestock, minerals, land disposals, and utility corridors. It was modified in response to public comments during the scoping Process to provide for a moderate level of wilderness designation.

Alternative D: This alternative provided for protection and enhancement of natural values with emphasis on wildlife, wild horses and burros, and wilderness.

Alternative E: This alternative was developed to provide for the mandatory "all wilderness" analysis and to provide for an analysis of elimination of livestock grazing.

DECISION RATIONALE

The Resource Management Plan as presented in the decisions outlined in this document was selected over the other alternatives since it best provides for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment while not overly restricting the production of commercial resources from the public lands. This plan sets forth a workable framework for responsible future management of public lands in the Walker Resource Area that is responsive to public input; in conformance to current legislation, regulations, and policy; and consistent with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.

MITIGATION AND MONITORING

No specific mitigating measures were identified. Any adverse environmental impacts will be minimized through the use of the Standard Operating Procedures presented in the Proposed RMP. The effects of implementing the decisions outlined in this document will be monitored and evaluated on a periodic basis to assure that the desired results are being achieved. These monitoring and evaluation procedures are presented in the proposed RMP.

JUN 0 9 1986

Edward F. Spang
Nevada State Director
U.S. Bureau of Land Management

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